



THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE

® "The Official Organ of the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM of Alabama."

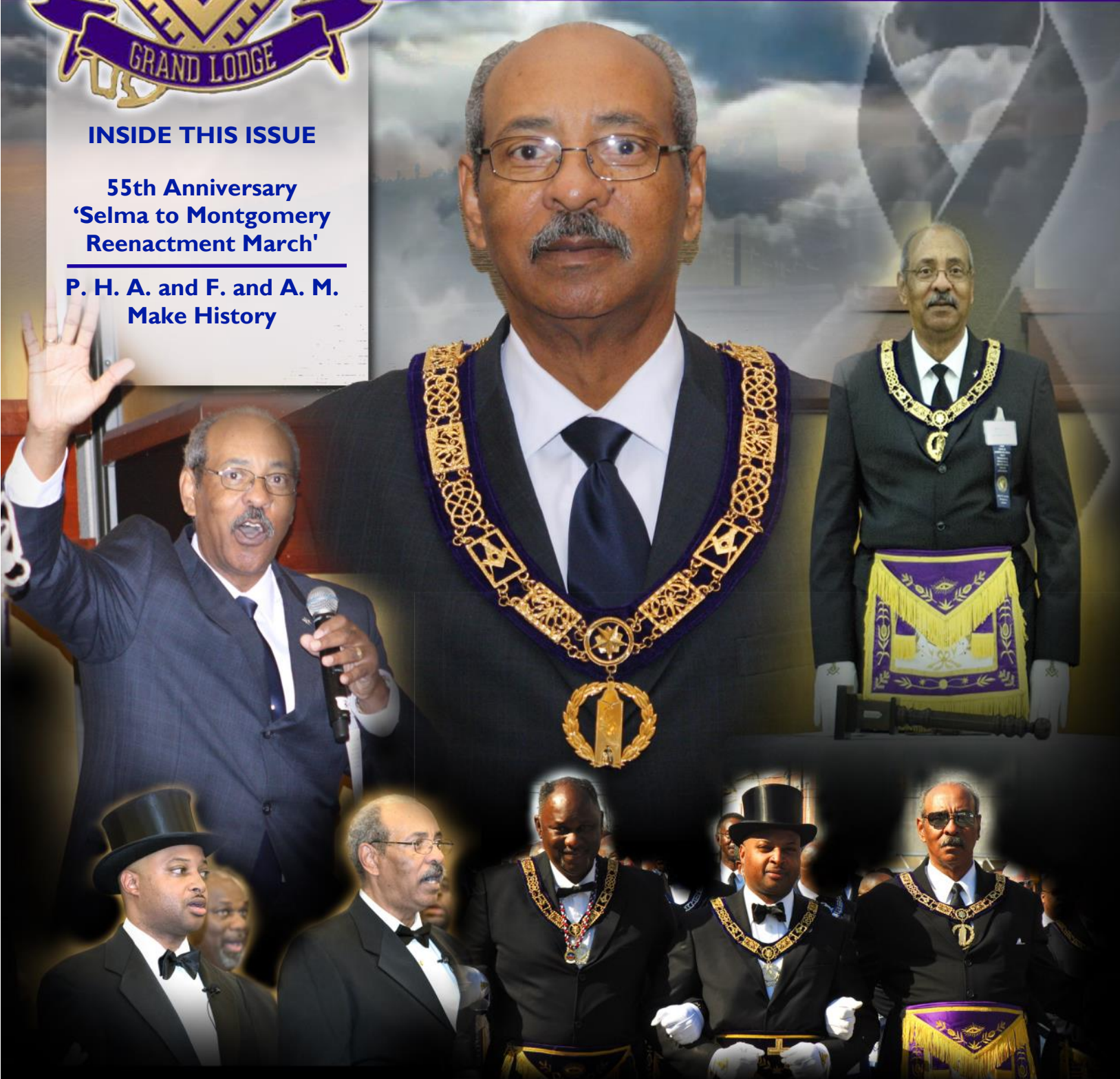
VOLUME VIII, ISSUE II

APRIL 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**55th Anniversary
'Selma to Montgomery
Reenactment March'**

**P. H. A. and F. and A. M.
Make History**



THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editor's Message	2
Temple Renovation Fundraiser	3
55th Anniversary Selma March	5
P. H. A. and F. and A. M. Make History	9
Corona Virus Word Puzzle	11
A Blast from the Past	12
Grand Lodge History	13
Dollars and Sense	17
Staying Healthy	20
In The Spotlight	22
Achievements	24
News & Events from Region 2	26
News & Events from Region 4	27
News & Events from Region 5	31
News & Events from Region 6	33
Obituaries	36
Article Submission Guidelines	37



*In times like these we need a Savior,
In times like these we need an anchor;
Be very sure, be very sure
Our anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*
Ruth Caye Jones

We are living in the days of uncertainty and despair. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been wreaking havoc throughout this United States and the world at large. Our people are being greatly affected by this deadly virus.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, masonic functions within the jurisdiction are currently suspended and will resume upon my notification. It is much better to be safe than sorry. I understand the eagerness of the brothers to come together, meet, and fellowship with one another. However, I also understand the value of human life and the seriousness of COVID-19. I ask each of you to please practice one of the first lessons we were all taught as Masons – patience.

Currently, I am aware of one brother that we have lost to this deadly culprit. Brother Ray Sanders, Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge No. 3, as well as, Grand Chaplain for the Mizpah Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star, lost his battle to coronavirus. Please keep the Sanders Family in your prayers.

Unfortunately, this jurisdiction also lost our dear friend and brother, Right Worshipful Matthew Hardy, Jr., who served as Junior Grand Warden for the Jurisdiction of Alabama from 1999 until his demise on March 17, 2020. Brother Hardy was a great man whose friendship, personality and melodious voice will be deeply missed. The front cover of this quarterly is a tribute to Brother Hardy. Let us keep the Hardy Family in our prayers, as well.

Worshipful Masters, now is the time to be creative and keep the Craft engaged. Have conference calls and/or video conferences to give instruction and/or lectures, or cause the same to be done. Divide the lodge into teams and play a masonic trivia game. Now is the time for all lodges to embrace technology. We must move into the 21st century.

Brothers, we must be resilient during these unpredictable times. We must do all we can to follow the guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Encourage others to follow the guidelines, as well. Wear your masks. Wear your gloves. Be considerate of others. Practice social distancing. Check on the welfare of our fellow brothers. Make sure the elderly brothers have all essentials. Last, but certainly not least, please remember the words penned by Ruth Caye Jones during World War II:

*In times like these we have a Savior,
In times like these we have an anchor
We're very sure, we're very sure
Our anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*

Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Front Cover:

Tribute to the late R.W. Matthew Hardy, Jr.



RW Herman "Jerome" Glover (50)
Publication Editor

"This program is designed to allow suspended members to reinstate for a more affordable fee."

RECLAMATION DRIVE (TARP)!



Message from the Editor

To all readers and supporters of this Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama entitled *The Cornerstone Message*, Greetings:

In these unprecedented times, I want to give thanks to the exceptional leadership of our Grand Master and all of the Grand Lodge Officers as we have remained focused on our priorities of protecting all of the Prince Hall Masonic brothers and sisters along with their families by minimizing impact to its members by canceling all Masonic functions until further notice and keeping Prince Hall Masonry strong for the future.

These efforts have been phenomenal as brothers and sisters have adjusted to new ways of working and living during this coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. My sincere thanks to everyone as our teamwork has proven, once again, that the fortitude of our collective spirit is second to none.

As some communities begin to reopen during the global COVID-19 pandemic, public health officials say the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Early information shows that older adults, people who live in a nursing homes or long-term care facilities, and individuals of any age with underlying health conditions are at high-

er risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 and a high number of our members fall in this category. Therefore, please do your part to protect yourself and others from the spread of this virus. Stay informed about what's happening in your community, and always follow the directions of state and local authorities.

As always, I encourage all subordinate lodges to continue to support *The Cornerstone Message* and show all readers of this newsletter what your lodges are doing in 2020 to add to the mission of making sure Prince Hall Masonry is at the forefront in the state of Alabama.

- RW Herman "Jerome" Glover
Publication Editor

Reclamation Drive (TARP)

In an attempt to give suspended Brothers an opportunity to become active again during these tough economic times, our Most Worshipful Grand Master has devised a plan named TARP- Traveling Again Reclamation Program. This program is designed to allow suspended members to reinstate for a more affordable fee.

Members suspended before June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
- \$25.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00)
- \$120.00 Total

Members suspended after June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
- \$25.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00)
- \$120.00 Total

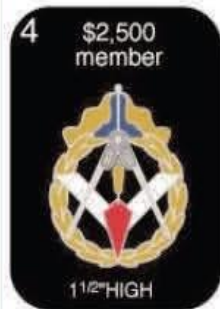
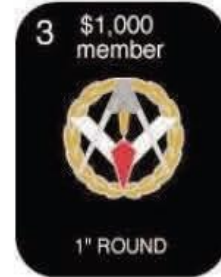
TARP serves a two-fold purpose: (1.) It gives suspended Brothers a more affordable means of reinstating and (2.) It gives dying lodges a final opportunity to salvage their existence by increasing their numbers before being forced to close or merge. Our Grand Master has extended a challenge for the members of this jurisdiction to go out and reclaim our lost Brothers. TARP will be in effect through July 31, 2020.

Support the Temple Renovation

Most

Worshipful Prince
Hall Grand Lodge
of Alabama Temple
Renovation Lapel
Pins are still
available for new
and existing
members upon
receipt of donation
(s). Collect up to
each level.

Display your
support
for the temple
renovation!



Support the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama, Inc.



BY PURCHASING YOUR

ALABAMA PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE LICENSE PLATE

TODAY!!!

(We have met and exceeded our required 250 COMMITMENTS)

Tags are now being issued...

For More Information Visit :

<http://revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/princehallgrandlodge.cfm>

*(You may purchase the MWPHGL of AL Tags Anytime,
You do not have to wait for your renewal Month!)*

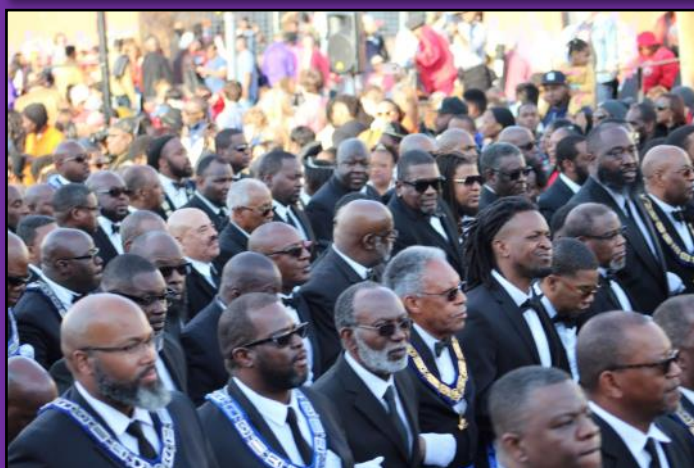
55th Anniversary “Selma to Montgomery Reenactment March”



Prince Hall Masons & Order of Eastern Star Sisters, “We Stand United”



Prince Hall Masons & Order of Eastern Star Sisters, “We Stand United”



Meet Us Their in 2021 For the 56th Anniversary In Selma!



P. H. A. and F. and A. M. Make History

On Monday, January 27, 2020, history was made in the Jurisdiction of Alabama. Prince Hall Masons and F. and A. M. came together to meet, greet, and fellowship on one accord on that historic night.

The lodges of the Fifth Masonic District and Rising Sun Lodge No. 29 F. and A. M. invited Grand Master Hawkins and some of the Grand Lodge Officers to a dinner and reception in honor of Most Worshipful Grand Master Jon Michael Taylor and First Lady Aletha Taylor in Decatur, Alabama.



Grand Master Hawkins was accompanied by Deputy Grand Master Robert W. Glenn, Grand Senior Warden Woodie Pugh, Grand Treasurer Dr. James Gray, Grand Secretary Anthony J. Johnson, Endowment Secretary Dennis Simmons, and Worshipful Master Guy King.

The dinner and reception began with a meet and greet in the lodge hall. The Prince Hall brothers were treated very well and were made to feel at home. Later the brothers were invited into the fellowship hall where the brothers and their wives broke bread together. The main event came after the dinner. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge Officers, as well as, F. and A. M. Grand Lodge Officers were all escorted into the lodge hall. Grand Master Hawkins was given an opportunity to address the audience. In his remarks Grand Master Hawkins told the audience that he thinks the relationship that is forming between Prince Hall and F. and A. M. is ordained by God. He spoke about how the two Grand Lodges came together for fraternal recognition between the two. Grand Master Hawkins stated, "If we're going to practice freemasonry the way we are supposed to, skin color shouldn't have anything to do with it." He said, "It is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man that deems him worthy."

At the close of the program, the brothers fellowshiped with one another and took the opportunity to pose for several photos. The evening was a memorable occasion and hopefully the beginning of other opportunities to fellowship, one with the other.





CORONAVIRUS

L I P U S T S Q F E Z I T I N A S P J
 I O M T H Q I P H F F Q T V A F D J R
 L X J H E C J E U H T A E R B I P U X
 N P Z S L S R Y M D Q V H O V Y A R F
 S O W A T P N E M W E K G O X X N I W
 N V S W E U O I S M A E C N F G D S V
 J Z H E R W N U G P T C S L N H E B C
 S U O I G A T N O C I M A I A G M K N
 D Z R V S E C C E T O R C S E U I M F
 L R T G O I E D F T H N A N L O C E A
 I I N D C G O J P Y A R M T C C V B S
 R N E M I F Z M P T L S E E O E G S E
 G F S O A H Y W S E P P O Z R R G K V
 X E S B L S S I Q Z I R H Z E R Y S O
 L C V X U D D Z U Q B E C W B C C A L
 W T H M Y M C O R O N A V I R U S M G
 P E N I T N A R A U Q D T I W L X H Q
 R D J Q H T U O M T W J G A Q Y T T L
 I C P R F Q G P S D N A H U U H N H H

breath

gloves

respiratory

clean

hands

sanitize

contagious

infected

shelter

coronavirus

masks

shortness

cough

mouth

social

covid

nose

spread

distancing

pandemic

symptoms

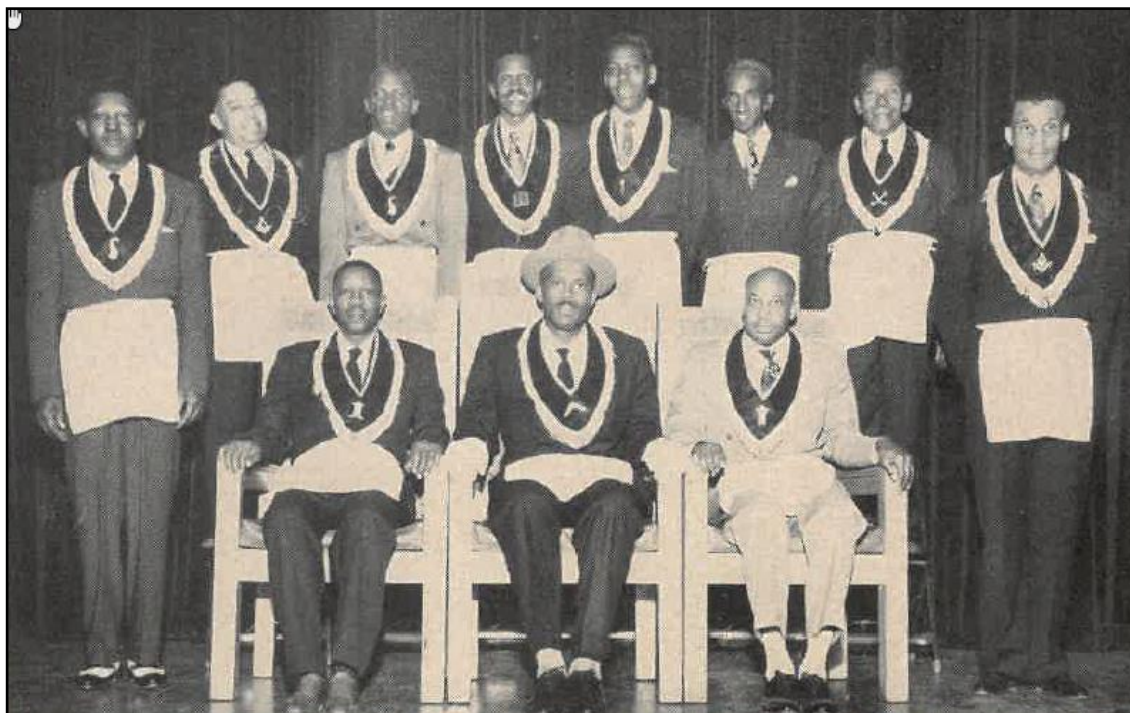
fever

quarantine

wash

A Blast from the Past

GREETINGS FROM TRIPLE TAU MASONIC LODGE NO. 104 TO THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE, F. & A.M. OF ALA. Birmingham, Alabama



Pictured above are the officers of Triple Tau Masonic Lodge No. 104. reading from left to right are: Charle Pierce, Worshipful Master; Julius Wilson, Senior Warden; Charles A. Brown, Junior Warden; R. O. White, Secretary.

Triple Tau Masonic Lodge No. 104 was organized June 19, 1902, fifty-three years ago. Bro. R. A. Blount was the first Worshipful Master of the lodge. During the past 53 years there have been 19 Masters including the present Master, Brother Charlie Pierce.

PAST MASTERS

R. A. Blount	1902—1903	L. E. Harris	1924-1925
P. J. Harris	1903—1904	P. J. Windfield	1925-1926
James A. Byrd	1904—1905	Patrick Cade	1926-1928
John Conico	1905-1906	B B. Dobbins	1928-1935
P. D. Davis	1907-1908	Sam Martin	1936-1937
Samuel Roebuck	1908-1909	Homer Calloway	1937-1939
James B. Lewers	1910-1911	E. W. Taggart	1939-1942
J. Norman Moore	1912-1914	Albert L. Gaines	1942-1953
Howard Strickland	1915-1920	Charlie Pierce	1953
William L. McAlpine	1920-1923		

From Whence We've Come...

*Taken from the 1911 proceedings of the Most
Worshipful Grand Lodge, A. F. and A. M. of Alabama*

JAMES TURNER GREGORY

**Grand Master of Masons Most Worshipful Grand
Lodge of Alabama, 1911-12**



BEYOND question the future historian of colored Masonry, when he turns to Alabama, will find the annual communication of 1911 at Tuskegee Institute, at which James T. Gregory was elected Grand Master, one of the most interesting of its thirty-three predecessors, from more than one view point, and one which marked a new epoch in the affairs of this jurisdiction conceded to stand in the front ranks of the various Grand Lodges of sister States. Already wearing the mantle of the late popular Grand Master Binford which had fallen on his shoulders by virtue of his station as Deputy Grand Master, at the death of the Grand Master, June 4th, preceding the Grand Lodge meeting, his designs laid out on the trestle board met the hearty approval of the craft and the crisis brought about by the ruthless hand of death and other perplexing problems, was safely passed by his election as Grand Master. The wisdom of his designs upon the trestle, board stood approved by this vote of confidence, and the continued phenomenal success of the work of the jurisdiction on this basis was assured. His forbearance in the exercise of authority, his sagacity in mapping out to capable hands the important work to be done, regardless of personal motives, which would have swayed less level-headed men, his devotion to the landmarks, combined with his sympathetic nature, worked together for his success and that of the session. It is not too much to say that in elevating Bro. Gregory to the Grand East, his fellow craftsmen were also guided by their long association with him in the Grand Lodge, he having given them eleven years of faithful service as Grand Lecturer; one year as Grand Junior Warden, 1888-9; one year as Grand Senior Warden, 1887-8; and five years, from 1906, as Deputy Grand Master. After such long years of service, that they should be content to place their interests in his care as their leader was a most flattering compliment and mark of esteem.

Bro. Gregory was born January 4, 1852, in Greenville, Butler County, Ala., where he has since lived. His early childhood and boyhood days were spent on his father's farm, doing such service as was exacted of him while also attending the county public schools. Later he was sent to the "Freedman's Bureau" school, taught by philanthropic Northern white teachers, at Montgomery, Ala. When the Swayne School was established he entered that, finishing the Normal course. His father having decided to give his son the shoemaker's trade, on going back home to the farm from school he spent a few months in the shoe shop with him. Later the plans were changed and Brother Gregory was given an examination by the County School Board and licensed to teach in the public schools. Entering on this work he seemed to have found his calling, making a success of it from the start. Later he was made Principal of the Greenville City Public School, which position he now holds, having been successively reelected for fifteen or eighteen terms. Not only, does he enjoy the confidence and good will of his own people, but the whites also honor him and his educational work with their friendly interest and kindly assistance when needed.

To share the honors and emoluments of a well spent life, Bro. Gregory is blessed with a good wife and a family of seven living children.

He is active in the church, also in the Sunday School, and for long years Christianity has received from him as a devout follower unstinted devotion and earnest unselfish work. To remember a Brother Mason while on the knees at devotion, whatever it may be to others, is not with our Grand Master-elect an idle promise.

W. T. WOODS

Deputy Grand Master of Masons Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alabama, 1911-12

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER-ELECT W. T. Woods (2), is the eldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Woods, of Mobile, Ala., in which city he first saw the light, Feb. 14, 1872. He was an apt pupil of the city public schools. In 1892 he was made a Mason in Hiram Lodge No. 3, Mobile, holding first station in a lodge as Senior Deacon. In 1894 he was demitted to St. John's Lodge No. 2, in which he was soon elected Senior Warden. After one year's service in this station he was elected Worshipful Master and successively reelected seven years. When first elected the Lodge was without a penny and in debt. After his seven year's service, when he voluntarily surrendered the gavel, the Lodge was out of debt, and had several hundred dollars in bank and had had an increase of twenty members.

A beautiful Masonic apron was presented to him by the craft as a token of appreciation of his most successful services.

In 1905, at Selma, the Grand Lodge elected him Grand Junior Warden, to which position he was reelected in 1906. In 1907 he was elected Grand Senior Warden and reelected continuously until he was chosen Deputy Grand Master at the 39th Annual Communication at Tuskegee in 1911.

The Mobile Masons in deciding to build a temple, formed a building committee made up by the election of one member from each lodge. Bro. Woods was elected by his lodge as its member of the committee. This committee, which gave Mobile its present Masonic Temple, costing \$24,000, made him its assistant chairman.

Bro. Woods' fraternal nature is not confined to Masonry; being an Odd Fellow of twenty-one years standing—a member of Benevolent Lodge No. 1626. He represented this Lodge at the 11th B. M. C., in 1904 at Columbus, O., at the 12th B. M. C., 1906, at Richmond, Va., and at the 13th session in 1908, at Atlantic City, N. J. He was also Deputy G. M., of the State of Alabama four years.

Another trophy, much prized by our newly elected Deputy Grand Master, won in outside benevolent work, is a beautiful gold watch and chain, the present of Protector Fire Company No. 11, a leading benevolent organization of Mobile, which he served as president from 1899 to 1906. He found it in debt, and left it with \$2,400 in its treasury and free from debt, when he resigned office.

Beginning his business career as a book-keeper in a grocery store, he branched to a tonsorial artist. In 1898 he passed the civil service examination, and was appointed a mail carrier in the Mobile post-office, in which position he still gives "Uncle Sam" satisfactory service.

Wearying of single blessedness in May, 1908, our brother led to the altar Miss Louise C. Harney, a teacher in the Mobile public schools, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Harney. This union has been blessed with two sons—W. T. Woods, Jr., and James Harney Woods.

He regards as his crowning glory his conversion to the Christian faith in 1906, at which time he connected himself with the State Street A. M. E. Zion church of which he continues an active member.

CHARLES H. EVANS

Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden

YEAR after year the brethren of the Grand Lodge seem to delight in honoring Bro. Chas. H. Evans hailing from Silver Trowel Lodge No. 10, Tuskegee, which as its number (10), indicates stands well toward the top of all the lodges as to precedence. Silver Trowel has however more to its credit and standing than the respectability of age. The record shows that as far back as the year 1887, it has maintained its standing by regular representation and returns. Its loyalty has never wavered-standing firm in times of adversity as well as in brighter days. And yet, the passport of the brother to the good graces of the Grand Lodge comes largely from his own intrinsic worth as a man and a Mason, as it should.

At Tuskegee Institute he has worked himself up from a laborer to a trusted official. As a citizen, taxpayer and man of family he commands the esteem and respect of his neighbors. .

Brother Evans has rendered invaluable service in spreading the light of Masonry. His high ideals and gentlemanly bearing exercise a wholesome influence and have added to an untold degree in drawing to the altar of the Order many of its strongest supporters. Comparatively a young man, his useful Masonic career promises to lengthen out taking deeper root as the years go by. He is by birth a Virginian-born in Gloucester county, Aug. 20, 1873; entered Hampton Institute as a trade student in September 1889, and graduated in 1896.

OSCAR LEE

Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden

A COMPARATIVELY young man, having been born January 6, 1870, at Troy, Pike County, Ala., our Junior Grand Warden brings to his new station of honor in the Grand Lodge, the vigor of manhood and the wisdom of ripe experience in craft. He was made a Mason in Pilgrim Lodge No. 62, at Troy, about fifteen years ago and has served his Lodge ever since in one station or another, being at present its trusted Treasurer. In 1901 he was elected Worshipful Master, receiving the Past Master's 'degree at Birmingham. During the eight years following, the brethren continued him in that station, while the lodge added to its membership 36 members, built and equipped a hall with electric lights, working tools and other conveniences at a cost of over \$2,000. He was the first brother to lay down a dollar on the altar for this work.

Fortune, otherwise full of smiles for our brother, for some reason denied him the advantages of very much schooling. What he has learned was mostly picked up by himself, in the way of the good old fathers and mothers, whose prayers availed so much in the dark days of slavery.

Above all education, however, Bro. Lee is blessed with sterling worth and integrity, as his every day life exemplifies. He has just completed twenty-four years of faithful service as a drayman for a home merchant and contractor. Add to this twenty-two years of dutiful service as a husband and father, three living children remaining to bless his home, and his credentials are complete. The oldest of the children, a daughter, is married -Mrs. Bessie Pridgett; the next, a boy, Noah W., is a chauffeur; the next, a girl, Julia M., now 15, is attending Lake St., Baptist Academy, at Troy.

Finally, our Junior Warden has followed in the footsteps of the Psalmist, who uttered, "O God, thou art my God: early will I seek thee," for he is an ordained deacon and financial clerk of the Troy First Baptist church.

It is well to have in high stations brothers whose actions speak for them, whose lives are exemplary and inspiring to their neighbors.

JAMES OLIVER DIFFAY

Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer

That very interesting new book, "Beacon Lights of the Race," by G. P. Hamilton, Memphis, Tenn. publishes a full page cut and a four page sketch of the brother whom the Grand Lodge made its Treasurer at its last sitting. The opening paragraph of this highly complimentary sketch reads-

"One of the best known, most highly respected and most enterprising citizens of Birmingham, Ala., is Mr. J. O. Diffay, who is a member of the race, notwithstanding the French flavor of his name, and who has done much that redounds to the credit and honor of the people. He has a claim second to none on the best wishes and esteem of the citizens of Birmingham; for he was born in the city's corporate limits and has resided therein for the entire period of his life. He was ushered into this mortal existence March 22, 1862, and was the son of parents who in addition to their farm land possessions, were rich in the goods of this world to the extent of fifteen children."

We are further informed by the article that-

"He never attended school for more than three months at one time, and the result was that he had to get a sort of hop-skip-and-jump education until he had advanced to the intermediate grades." "Mr. Diffay has striven to make up these disadvantages by constant reading. He is an inveterate reader of newspapers, magazines and literary periodicals, and in this praiseworthy manner, combined with constant association with educated people, he has been rounded into a man of the highest intelligence."

Of his early life, it is said that "from his sixteenth birthday until he was twenty-five years old he worked as a general, all-round genius, and made an attempt at everything, from public work to the business of digging wells and selling books. At the age of twenty-one he was married to Miss Hattie Roebuck, a young woman from one of the oldest and best families of the city." "In 1898, Mrs. Diffay died, leaving her husband and three little children" Misfortune followed him then in business' when he undertook to run a grocery store with a capital of seventy-five dollars, and again in the fruit and confection trade. Heavily in debt, he ventured now in the tonsorial business, beginning with two chairs. Fortune here turned her smiles his way once more, and in two years he paid off debts amounting to some seven hundred dollars.

Embarking in the real estate business in 1888, fortune continued to smile on him, until today he enjoys the reputation of being one of the most , successful real estate dealers of his race in the Magic City.

One of the original organizers of the Alabama Penny Savings Bank of Birmingham, for years past he has been its honored first vice-president, and is today. He was the first president of the People's Mutual Aid Association of Alabama, an industrial insurance company which he helped to organize. Aside from the other business enterprises with which Bro. Diffay is connected, he has established in Birmingham at an outlay, it is said, of \$6,000, what is conceded to be the finest and most complete tonsorial parlor for colored people anywhere in the world. It operates twelve chairs, is steam heated, illuminated with gas and electricity and fitted with the best up-to-date basins and sanitary arrangements. The floors are tiled and chairs white enameled.

In 1901, he again ventured into wedlock, leading to the altar Miss Rosa Bradford, a graduate of Birmingham public schools and of Tuskegee Institute, and an experienced teacher. This union has been blessed with four children.

His Masonic career dates from 1903, when he was made a Mason with other charter members of that banner young lodge, Jachanina No.147, being installed as its first Master. His zeal for the Order since, has been of the same white heat, characteristic of his optimistic temperament.

\$ Dollars and Sense \$

Coronavirus and Your Finances: Here's How to React

Here are some smart moves to make and some not-so-smart moves to avoid. The stock market has plummeted over the past month, and many workers have been forced to stay home from work, sometimes along with their children whose schools have closed, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus. With so much uncertainty still surrounding this pandemic, it's natural to have some major financial concerns.

There are some aspects of your personal financial life that aren't within your control. You can't really control how much paid sick leave your employer is willing to give you, or how much of any medical treatment your health insurance will cover. Estimates say that uninsured patients can expect to pay \$500 to \$1,000 or even more to be tested for the COVID-19 virus, and the cost of actually treating a confirmed case can be astronomical.

However, there are some smart financial moves you can make during the novel coronavirus outbreak and containment efforts. Here are some of the most important steps to take now.

Don't Sell Investments Out of Fear

We'll start with things you shouldn't do. If you've been following the news, you know the stock market has dropped like a rock and threatens to continue spiraling. As of March 13, the stock market is more than 20% lower than it was a month ago. Even if you don't own stocks directly in a brokerage account, this has likely caused your 401(k) or other retirement account to lose a significant percentage of its value.

It can be extremely stressful to watch the value of your retirement nest egg plunge by tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars. I've watched a significant portion of my account value evaporate recently as well.

However, one thing you absolutely do not want to do is sell any stocks or stock-based investments as a result of this panic -- especially in retirement accounts that you won't need for several years. So long as your immediate financial needs are met, selling stocks after a massive market selloff is the worst thing you can do to your long-term financial health. The goal of investing is to buy low and sell high. By panic-selling, you're doing the exact opposite.

Stocks experience 20% or greater declines every few years on average, but they have always gone up over the course of decades. In fact, many people are better off not even looking at their 401(k) or brokerage account when the market is so volatile, as doing so often leads to irrational, knee-jerk decisions.

Most retail investors (like you and me) underperform the stock market over time, and the main reason is that we're prone to making emotion-based decisions. Just stay invested for the long run. This isn't the first time the market has dropped this much, and it certainly won't be the last.

Put Some Emergency Plans in Place

Now is a smart time to figure out what you'll do if you're forced to stay home from work for a prolonged period, especially if your kids' school is closed and they're home with you. As a working parent of two young children, I certainly share this concern.

One idea is to talk to other parents who are in a similar predicament. Maybe you can alternate watching each others' kids so you can all have some time to get work done. Or you could let relatives who don't work know you might need their help and gauge their willingness to pitch in. My parents live a few miles from me, and I can assure you that grandma and grandpa are part of our contingency plan if preschool is closed (sorry, mom).

Take Advantage of Low Interest Rates

Interest rates have plunged during the coronavirus outbreak, and this has resulted in some of the lowest borrowing costs in history.

The most significant example is mortgages. The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rate is at a near-record low of 3.47% as I write this, and borrowers with excellent credit scores can likely find even better rates. If the mortgage rate you're currently paying is significantly higher than the current national average, it could be a good idea to look into refinancing your mortgage, which can lower your monthly payment and help you build equity faster by putting more of your mortgage payment towards your principal balance.

If you choose to look into refinancing, here are a couple of suggestions:

Make sure you're paying attention to the annual percentage rate (APR) of any mortgage offer, not just the interest rate. The APR tells you the total cost of borrowing, including certain fees.

Shop around. While mortgage rates are at historic lows, you'll still receive different offers from different lenders. You may be surprised at what a seemingly tiny difference in APR can do over the repayment term of a 30-year mortgage. Plus, there's a provision in the FICO® credit scoring formula that ensures your credit score won't be hit by multiple hard inquiries if you do all your rate-shopping within a two-week period.

Know your FICO® Score and what it means. Your credit score has a big impact on the mortgage APRs you're offered. There are several places where you can view your FICO® Score -- many credit card companies give customers access to one of their FICO® Scores for free -- or you can pay for a more comprehensive service such as myFICO.com. To get an idea of what to expect, you can check out the current average mortgage rates by FICO® Score at myFICO.com.

The downtrend in interest rates that has accompanied the COVID-19 outbreak is likely to extend beyond mortgages. If you have a lot of high-interest debt, you might want to consider taking out a personal loan for debt consolidation, for example. Other forms of borrowing, such as home equity loans and auto loans, are also likely to be cheaper than they were just a few weeks ago.

Boost Your Emergency Fund

Experts suggest that you should have three to six months' worth of expenses in a readily accessible place, such as a savings account. While this is certainly a good goal, the reality is that the majority of Americans don't have anywhere near that amount.

Times like this are the reason emergency funds are so important. Imagine the peace of mind in knowing that if you were forced to take an unpaid month off work, you'd be just fine financially.

If you don't have a comfortable emergency fund, now could be a great time to start building yours up. You don't need tens of thousands of dollars -- but some cushion is certainly better than none. If you're among the fortunate people whose income and work schedule haven't been disrupted yet, consider saving more aggressively in your emergency account. And if you haven't yet received or allocated your tax refund, bulking up your emergency fund could be an excellent way to use it.

Keep Some Cash on Hand

If the COVID-19 outbreak gets significantly worse, it's not inconceivable that we'll have full-scale shutdowns in some areas of the country. As I write, virtually all businesses in Italy except grocery stores and a few others are closed. That could happen on a localized scale here.

This may make it more difficult to get cash if you need it, especially if bank branches close. It could be smart to get a reasonable amount of cash and keep it in a safe place in your home.

Look for Opportunities to Cut Expenses

If you don't have an emergency fund, or are simply worried about your general level of cash flow during the outbreak, it's smart to look for ways to cut expenses. Some of the usual suspects might not be practical -- for example, I can't in good conscience suggest that you get rid of your Netflix subscription when you might be stuck at home indefinitely.

Fortunately, there are many ways to get your costs under control without depriving yourself too badly. And if you've thought about scaling back on going out to eat or shop because of the virus, considering how much money you'd save by doing so could give you extra motivation.

One of my favorite tactics is to print out my most recent bank account and credit card statements and highlight expenses I didn't really need. I typically suggest this as a New Year's resolution method, but it works well anytime you need to cut back.

Remember That This Too Shall Pass

A final thought: The most important thing to do now is take a deep breath and resist the urge to panic. Panic leads to irrational thinking, which leads to poor financial decisions.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a terrible and frightening situation. There's uncertainty surrounding how long the outbreak will last, how bad it will get, and many other variables. But we will get through it. Your 401(k) will, too. So make some smart and rational financial decisions and focus on what's really important -- your health and the health of the people you care about.

Matt Frankel, CFP

Staying Healthy

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In December 2019, a new (or novel) human coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) type emerged in China. COVID-19, the infectious disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, is now a pandemic affecting many countries globally. Patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of cough and shortness of breath, along with other symptoms, appearing anywhere from 2 to 14 days after exposure.

Symptoms and Risk

Most people will have mild effects from the virus, but it can cause severe illness and pneumonia in others. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally have mild illness. This list is not all inclusive. Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

When to Seek Medical Attention

If you develop any of these emergency warning signs for the disease, you should seek medical attention immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you..

Symptom Self-Checkers

The CDC provides a guide to help you make decisions about seeking appropriate medical care.

[Visit the CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker.](#)

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) has created a symptom tracker to identify hot spots where the virus is spreading. The UAB symptom tracker provides public health officials insight into underserved areas based on the symptomatic data collected from the region and could help inform and enhance public health observation.



People Who Need to Take Extra Precautions

Any person can contract the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). However, certain populations are more at risk such as:

- People who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members.
- Persons over 65 years of age and those with serious health conditions (heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, HIV, any condition that affects the immune system, persons with body mass index over 40, persons with liver disease, persons who live in long term care).

[Learn more about higher and other risk populations and what you can do from the CDC.](#)

Prevention and Treatment

Protect Yourself and Others

A few simple steps can greatly reduce your chances of being exposed and exposing others to COVID-19. Everyone should:

- Practice good hygiene: cover coughs and sneezes, don't touch your face, and wash hands often
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home
- Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others not in your household
- Use cloth face coverings when in public
- Clean and disinfect frequently used items and touched surfaces often

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to it. Learn more on [How to Protect Yourself and Others](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Source:

Alabama Department of Public Health

In The Spotlight

Each quarter the MWPHGL of Alabama will place one of our worthy brothers In The Spotlight. The worthy brother placed In The Spotlight this quarter is:

Brother A. Derek Bowman

Brother A Derek Bowman (also known as “AD”) was born Arthur Derek Bowman on April 02, 1965 in Bessemer, Alabama. He attended Jess Lanier High School (now known as Bessemer City High School) and is a cum laude graduate of Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama majoring in Business Administration. Brother Bowman is the proud father of two children: daughter Nalo Mashe’ Bowman and step-son James Randelle Stephens. He happily speaks of the challenge of being a role model for them. He is a believer that it is our duty to plant and nurture, but we must leave any increase to GOD.

Brother Bowman is employed with the Social Security Administration at its Program Service Center in Birmingham, Alabama with 20+ years of customer service. He has participated as a person of contact in their “Federal Combined Campaign”, which annually raises donations from fellow employees to support various charities whether they are local, regional, or national. He has also participated in the employee development program “Opportunities in Excellence” (OEP). Currently he serves as an Earnings Reviewer assigned to the “traditional” workload in the Disability Processing Branch (DPB). Brother Bowman ensures disability claimants know their rights concerning working while disabled. He also verifies working individuals receiving disability benefits do not violate any of the established limits concerning earnings. He is also employed with FedEx Ground, where he currently serves as a Package Handler Trainer. In this capacity he is responsible for new hires learning proper techniques required in loading trailers transported across the Delta District and Southern Region of the United States. Dedication to work is no stranger to Brother Bowman.

Brother Bowman takes great pleasure in providing assistance in the community through service. He was in the community of Pratt City (Birmingham) providing assistance when it was ravaged by a massive and destructive tornado. He has contributed and helped with the delivery of needed toiletries to a nursing home in Bessemer for its residents. He continues to support voter registration drives. Brother Bowman has contributed and delivered much-needed school supplies within Birmingham City Schools (BCS). He has aided in bringing joy to needy children at Christmas. Brother Bowman applies these same principles to work within the Masonic organizations.



Brother A. Derek Bowman

During his tenure as Grand District Deputy for Masonic District Number 14 for the MWPHGL of AL, Brother Bowman, and his staff established operational procedures and practices still being used in the district to ensure a fluent operation. As Grand District Deputy (at Large) for the MEWHMGC-HRAM of AL, he worked diligently to streamline and pinpoint the exact location of all subordinate chapters, leading to an actual mapping of the jurisdiction. While serving as Grand Secretary-Treasurer for the MEWHMGC-KT of AL, he was instrumental in establishing their initial database.

Brother Bowman also aided in the initial redesign of all forms used in the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery for the jurisdiction. Service is no stranger to Brother Bowman. He has long known that we must spread the cement of true brotherly love if we are to build the bonds that will hold our beloved organization together. He knows a house divided will never stand for any length of time.

Brother Bowman's masonic accomplishments have included service in vast areas:

Masonic Houses:

Grand District Deputy MWPHGL of AL Masonic District No. 14
 Member & Chairman MWPHGL of AL Jurisprudence Committee
 Recipient, 2015 & 2016 Distinguished Leadership Award MWPHGL of AL
 First Runner Up, 2015 Grand District Deputy of the Year MWPHGL of AL
 Past Master Dothan Lodge No. 112
 Honorary Member New Beginning Lodge No. 970
 Grand King Most Excellent W.H. Mack Grand Chapter HRAM
 Past Vice-President Jefferson County Convention of High Priests
 Past High Priest Mount Horeb Chapter No. 48 HRAM
 Grand Deputy Master Most Illustrious W.H. Mack Grand Council R&SM
 Past Thrice Illustrious Master Adoniram Council No. 4 R&SM
 Chartered Thrice Illustrious Master Adoniram Council No. 4 R&SM
 Grand Captain General Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery Order of KT
 Grand Secretary-Treasurer Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery Order of KT
 Past Eminent Commander Godfrey Commandery No. 4 KT
 Grand Inspector General . United Supreme Council AASR-SJ, Joel A. Day Class of 1996
 First Lieutenant Commander Alabama Council of Deliberation 2009-2010
 Member Commanders of the Rite 33°, Alabama Council of Deliberation
 Recipient, Commander In Chief Award Alabama Council of Deliberation
 Past Commander In Chief Red Cross Consistory No. 02A AASR
 Member S.J. Bennett 33° Club/Commanders of the Rite
 Grand Commander Red Cross Council of Kadosh
 Past Most Wise Red Cross Chapter of Rose Croix
 Imperial Deputy, Legion of Honor Imperial Council AEAONMS
 Imperial Deputy of the Oasis Khedive Temple No. 16 AEAONMS
 Desert Chief Rabban Desert of Alabama, AEAONMS
 Past President Khedive Temple No. 16 Past Potentates Council
 Past Illustrious Potentate Khedive Temple No. 16 AEAONMS
 Past Prior Alabama Priory No. 14, Knights of the York Cross of Honour (KYCH)

Ladies Auxiliaries:

Worthy Patron Carter's Success Chapter No. 870-A OES
 Chartered Associate Patron Makeda Chapter No. 893 OES
 Worthy Joshua Mary E Haney Court No. 4 HOJ
 Past Outer Gatekeeper Carrie B. Burns Most Royal Grand Court, Cyrene Crusaders
 Royal Advisor Genesis Court No. 48 CC
 Original Chartered Deputy Advisor Xcalibur Court No. 26-A CC

"Some of our finest work comes through service to others."

Gordon B. Hinckley

Achievements

Grand Master Hawkins and Grand Worthy Matron Pratt Receive Excellence Awards

Salute Selma, Inc. celebrated and honored women and men who throughout their lives have demonstrated superior leadership and have a track record of long-term achievements in community involvement and their professions. Significantly, those individuals are mentors known for their positive influence and for inspiring others through their work and unwavering passion and commitment to building better communities.

The Montgomery Regional Airport was the venue of the Salute Selma, Inc. Welcome Reception held on Saturday, February 29, 2020. The welcome reception was one of the many activities taking place during the Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee Weekend. At the reception, Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., and Grand Worthy Matron Shirley W. Pratt were both honored with the Salute Selma Man and Woman of Excellence Awards.

Upon receiving the awards, Grand Master Hawkins and Grand Worthy Matron Pratt were both provided an opportunity to bring greetings and to address the captive audience. The awardees were in good company. Among the class of Men and Women of Excellence were Lajuana Bradford, SVP Regional Community Development and Partnerships Manager, Regions Bank, Felicia Turrentine Wasson, Director of Community and Stakeholder Relations, The Coca Cola Company, the Honorable Judge John H. England, Circuit Judge for the Sixth Judicial Circuit and Member of the Board of Trustees, University of Alabama System, and the Honorable Steven L. Reed, Mayor of the City of Montgomery.

Salute Selma, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3), is committed to offering leadership experiences enhancing the knowledge, respect, and observance of the Selma Voting Rights Movement through humanitarianism, arts and education, health and wellness, and political and economic empowerment.

Grand Master Hawkins and Grand Worthy Matron Pratt both were delighted to be recipients of the prestigious awards. Congratulations to both for their achievements!



Grand Master Hawkins and Grand Worthy Matron Pratt with Salute Selma's Man and Woman of Excellence Awards

P.M. Jimmy D. Benson Succeeds in His Assignment

Past Master Jimmy Benson was assigned to the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade “TOP NOTCH” as the Aviation and Missile Command, (AMCOM), General Purpose Electronic Test Station ATE (GETS-1000 Automatic Test Equipment) Operator/Maintainer in support of 401st Army Field Support Battalion – Qatar (AFSBN-Qatar) PATRIOT, as part of the Army Material Command’s “Face to the Field” presence. He established himself as the Subject Matter Expert (SME) for logistical recommendations, advice, and guidance as to the GETS Logistics Assistance Representative (LAR). His technical, operational, and logistical skills were the standards his peers and subordinates strive to emulate. He has served with distinction and selflessly accomplished the following:

Supporting sixteen Patriot Firing Units operating in five countries. Past Master Benson had over 29 instances of cost avoidances in areas of training, maintenance, and logistics supply that included over \$500k in maintenance cost avoidance utilizing the GETS-1000 Automated Test Equipment. His persistence and determination to succeed enabled him to perform GETS services, test, calibration, and repair to the system bringing it to a Fully Mission Capable (FMC) status during his tenure as the SME operator and maintainer. His logistical actions enable this brigade asset to re-enter the fight in support of the PATRIOT missile defense system. He tested over 65 Circuit Card Assemblies (CCAs) with 47 passing and returned to the Firing Unit’s Diagnostic Mandatory Parts Listing (DMPL) as serviceable assets. The remaining 18 CCAs that failed testing were identified and labeled as unserviceable DMPL assets. This process reduced downtime for the Patriot Firing Units. During this deployment, he provided 24 hours of training to two Soldiers and two Department of the Army Civilians.

Over the last six months, Past Master Benson has been the consummate team player, accepting every challenge and never refusing a request for assistance from his peers. His actions and resourcefulness exemplified a high standard of excellence and dedication to duty. He continues to be a key asset to the operational success of AFSBN-Qatar and the United States Army. He is highly deserving of this award.



P.M. Jimmy D. Benson

REGION 2

News and Events from Region 2

Liberty Star Lodge No. 333 Working In Its Community

Each month, the members of Liberty Star Lodge No. 333 gives it's Student and Teacher of the Month Awards to one student and teacher for their hard work and commitment to education. Both winners receive the lodge's certificate and a gift card to their favorite restaurant.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Liberty Star Lodge No. 333 and the Mount Cepheus Primitive Baptist Church, where Brother Laramie D. Long, Sr., is pastor, sponsored lunch for the essential workers for the Rush Specialty Hospital. They wholeheartedly appreciate our kindness and caring for them doing this pandemic. However, due to COVID-19, the lodge wasn't able to be physically present, but Pastor Long and Liberty Star Lodge No. 333 were able to continue its community service effort during this pandemic.



*January's Teacher of the Month
Mrs. Betsy Ward,
Greensboro Elementary School*



*January's Student of the Month
Kristin Boykins,
Greensboro Elementary School*

Contributor - WM Folante Perry (No. 333)



*February's Teacher of the Month
Mr. Leon Day,
Greensboro Middle School*



*February's Student of the Month
Jaheim Wilcher,
Greensboro Middle School*

REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

Hamilton Lodge No. 365 Continues Its Community Involvement

On February 15, 2020, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 held its 3rd Annual Red and Black Ball. The participation in this event has almost tripled over the years and the lodge will be looking for a larger venue for 2021. The event this year had over 150 people in attendance and the proceeds from this year's event will be used to fund Hamilton Lodge's community outreach activities.



On March 1st, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge joined with and formed the unbroken chain of brothers and sisters from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama in the commemoration of the 55th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," which refers to March 7, 1965, when marchers crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge were stopped and beaten by state troopers and local police. More than fifty protesters were hospitalized. The beatings sparked national outrage and led to the Selma-to-Montgomery March and passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.



This is an annual event for Hamilton Lodge and it is an excellent opportunity outside of Grand Lodge Annual Communication to fellowship, because this event draws Masonic delegations from across the United States. This event also brings politicians, celebrities, and most especially the public to Selma, AL each year for this annual event.

In March 2020, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 continued their tradition of giving back by donating three bicycles to Highland Gardens Elementary School. The lodge has been doing this annually for the last few years. The lodge's numerous community outreach activities have been instrumental in District No. 8's efforts to always show the City of Montgomery that Prince Hall Freemasonry is active and always ready to provide a hand, a kind word, or in this case, great new bicycles for three deserving students.

Hamilton lodge would not be anything if it was not for the work and sacrifices of those members who have gone to that undiscovered country. Often those brothers leave a widow. Taking time out of their day, brothers of Hamilton Lodge surprised Mrs. Brundige with a Valentine's gift and shared memories of their lost brother. Although Masonry mandates that we protect and care for the widows and orphans of masons, the lodge also does this out of gratitude to Mrs. Brundige for allowing her husband to grace the lodge with his presence during his lifetime.

Always showing gratitude, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 and WM Belser presented a Marine Corps Veteran with a plaque and hat. There have been many great military men who have also been masons beginning with the father of this country. As a mason, we are charged with not just a spiritual loyalty but also loyalty to our country and fellow citizens.

Contributor – Bro. Marion A. Dortch, Jr. (No. 365)



Milton W. Howze No. 408

Cleans Up Cemetery

The brothers from Milton W. Howze No. 408 teamed up with Auburn University's Human Development Family Studies lecturer, Dr. Robert Bubb, and staff, to continue in the efforts of cleaning Baptist Hill Cemetery. Baptist Hill Cemetery is located at the intersection of South Dean Road and Thach Avenue and is Auburn's first separate black community cemetery, which offers a rich source of the city's black heritage. The four-acre cemetery contains over 500 marked graves and many other unmarked graves. The oldest grave is dated 1879. On February 22nd, the rakes, leaf blowers, and chainsaws were all in use, to get the cemetery back to a pleasant condition for public viewing. This has been an ongoing community service project for the brothers of Milton W. Howze No. 408 for a few years now after conditions at the cemetery declined from years of neglect.

Contributor – Bro. Alvin B. Howard (No. 408)



Shorter Lodge No. 533

Feeds the Community

During this season of pandemic and uncertainty, it's great to know that we still have each other. Shorter Lodge No. 533 in conjunction with other community leaders and organizations came together to serve the community meals during this time of children being out of school and parents being out of work. This group of organizations and leaders jumped into action immediately after schools were closed and began to put together a plan that no child will go hungry during this time of uncertainty. Where there is unity, God commands his blessings forevermore. Thanks to the efforts of the community and the blessings of God the lodge was able to serve over 1,000 free meals and will continue to serve as needed. Shorter Lodge No. 533 is grateful to have leadership in Worshipful Master Willie Smith with the vision to coordinate the community members to pick up lunch at the Wall Street Community Center where volunteers handed out prepackaged meals. If people weren't able to drive, there were deliveries to make sure the community was fed. They're thankful to the surrounding community for volunteering their time and for Reeltown High School's Gentlemen's Club for providing food. They're also thankful to play a part in the uplifting of our community during this time of the pandemic. The lunches are every weekday.



Shorter Lodge, No. 533 continues to look for ways to serve the community. The cities surrounding the lodge has a history of being underserved and under-utilized so the brothers of the craft decided to come together to do something to impact our community. Through the guidance of Rev. Brother Joshua Anthony, who serves as Senior Warden, the lodge has collaborated with several churches in the area to cook and pass out free breakfast to those in need in our community. On Saturdays, the churches and the organizations involved come together to not only physically feed the community but to spiritually feed the souls of those who attend. 2nd Saturdays of the month are dedicated to Shorter Lodge No. 533 and Beulah Baptist Church; They meet at a local community center to prepare breakfast and greet the attendees. The goal is for the food to draw the flesh, but for God to draw the spirit. This is a long-term project for Shorter Lodge No. 533 and the members look forward to continuing to be servants for the Lord.

Contributor – Bro. Joshua Anthony (No. 533)



REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

New Beginning Lodge No. 970 Continues Its Charity

On March 1, 2020, the brothers of New Beginning Lodge No. 970 attended the 55th annual re-enactment march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL answering the summons issued by Grand Master Hawkins to celebrate that fateful event during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. It was a time to reflect on the actions that provided each one of us with the ability to exercise our right as a people of color to cast our ballots in elections that choose our representation in government. It was a time to honor those who lost their lives for this struggle and reflect on all who may have participated in these historical events. New Beginning chartered a bus that allowed 20 brothers from their lodge to attend and have a great time participating in this event. Brothers were encouraged to bring family, friends and most notably, their children, to allow them to experience the re-enactment, the events that helped shape our present ability to exercise our rights and to celebrate the sacrifice made by so many for the God-given right as men & women to cast out votes.



On March 2nd, WM Ron Boone and several brothers from New Beginning participated in the Dr. Seuss Birthday Reading Project. The brothers took time off their jobs to assist Martha Gadsden Elementary School with reading to the 3rd-grade students. After reading several books to the students, the brothers gave insight on the importance of every student reading at least one book not assigned by their teacher every month. Literacy is a huge challenge in a lot of the black communities and New Beginning is committed to aiding elementary schools that struggle in the area of reading and math. These children must see men that care and are invested in their success.



In the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, schools were forced to shut down leaving thousands of children in the Jefferson County School System without daily meals. Each school in the county provides two meals a day (breakfast and lunch) and for children that are on the free and reduced program, this was devastating news. WM Ron Boone was tasked to lead a group of volunteers three days out of the week for two weeks to pass out curbside meals (one breakfast, one lunch) to families in need. WM Boone, Brother Terry Coley (Cordova Police Officer) and others assisted by packing bags, distributing the meals, set up, and breaking down the site located at Erwin Intermediate School. At the end of the two-week volunteer effort, New Beginning Lodge No. 970 provided lunches and refreshments to the staff and volunteers. Despite these difficult times, people must not forget their charitable responsibility to those in need while practicing social distancing and staying safe.

Contributor- Bro. Carlos Bozeman (No. 970)



Tuxedo Lodge No. 431 Adopts School in Fairfield

Tuxedo Lodge No. 431 strives to become more visible in the Fairfield community. The lodge has adopted Robinson Elementary School. The school principal and other faculty members have visited Tuxedo Lodge. Through numerous conversations, the lodge has been given a list of everyday needs. Recently in February, Tuxedo Lodge, as a supporter of the school, was invited to attend the annual Stakeholders Breakfast held in the school library.

Contributor - PM Larry Jones (No. 431)



REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

Evening Star Lodge No. 6 Begins Its Adopt-A-Mile Community Service Project

Evening Star Lodge No. 6 began the new calendar year with a renewed spirit of community service. One such program is the Adopt-A-Mile Program. Huntsville City Operation Green Team Adoption Program is a program where individual citizens, fraternal, and/or civic groups partner with the city to help maintain the city roadways and parks. The two sub-programs under this program are the Adopt-A-Mile and the Adopt-A-Park Programs.

The partners of the Adopt-A-Mile Program agree to sign up for one year to clean at least a one-mile stretch of roadway. After the year is completed, the contract may be renewed. The partners also agree to obey and abide by all laws and regulations relating to the safety required by the City of Huntsville transportation Department. The partners also agree to wear safety vests while performing such duties. The city will provide the vests, trash bags, and pick-up sticks for the use of the partners.

Evening Star has chosen two streets in the neighborhood directly across the street from the lodge. The decision to choose this route was two-fold. First to support and give back to a neighborhood in which their lodge resides, which also houses many residents that look like themselves. The other is to let the community know that the lodge is there for them. The lodge hopes that each quarter, they can grill some hotdogs and/or hamburgers for the community after they complete their community service.

On February 1st, Evening Star began the clean-up project with approximately ten brothers participating. On March 7th, the Sisters from Mizpah Chapter No. 37, OES joined the brothers in this endeavor. Both events were opened with prayer, coffee, and donuts. The events were also closed with a prayer and after the March event, the brothers and sisters went to breakfast



Contributor – Bro. Ronald Adams (No. 6)

Morning Star No. 50 and Goodway No. 222 Receive Community Awards

On Tuesday, February 25th, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Goodway Lodge No. 222 were both invited and attended a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner sponsored by the City of Huntsville Community Development Division in Huntsville, Alabama. The occasion was an event to recognize contributors and volunteers that assisted the City of Huntsville Community Development in Madison County. One of the guest speakers on the program was the Honorable Tommy Battle – Mayor of Huntsville. The Mayor, the Housing Manager (Jim Lucas), and other distinguished guests thanked all the sponsors, contributors and volunteers for their dedication and commitment in supporting our community for the 2019 calendar year. Prince Hall Masonry was represented by Morning Star Lodge No. 50 (Barrington Dames – Worshipful Master) and Goodway Lodge No. 222 (Jarvis Noel – Worshipful Master). Both lodges continue to support their community in several different functions and both were recognized and awarded a token of appreciation for all the hard work they have done.



Members of Goodway Lodge No. 222 who attended the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Contributor – PM Larry D. Tisdale (No. 50)



Members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 who attended the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Temple Lodge No. 98 Registering Voters and Making Donations

On January 15, 2020, Temple Lodge No. 98 attended the annual Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship (GHIMF) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Emancipation Proclamation Celebration at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church. Songs and music from the GHIMF Mass choir set the tone for the great message delivered by Dr. Traci Blackmon. Brother Thomas Jackson of Temple Lodge No. 98, operated the NAACP booth for voter registration. An empowering time was had by all.

On February 12th, Temple Lodge No. 98, Huntsville, AL partnered again with Publix Super Market at The Shoppes at Redstone Square to provide the Clearview Cancer Institute, Huntsville, Alabama with much-needed items for their food pantry. The dry goods donation boxes, valued at over \$150.00, consisted of canned items, Jell-O, pasta, etc., to assist the institute in providing patient families with ready to eat meals in a time of less fortune.

Contributor – WM Carl Cooney. (No. 98)



Lincoln Lodge No. 99 Hosts Zumba Workouts

Lincoln Lodge No. 99 in Madison, AL is still giving back to the community. Worshipful Master Jimmie Payne and the brothers of Lincoln Lodge No. 99 opened up their parking lot to the Zumba community dance groups, praise dancers and others groups to practice their workout during the Corona Viruses outbreak so they could practice social distancing. The Zumba community reached out to WM Payne asking if they could use the parking lot to continue their practices and workout. WM Payne opens the lodge during the time to provide water, snacks, and hand sanitizer. Lincoln Lodge No. 99 is proud to support the community during this unprecedented time and look forward to continued service and being a strong presence in the community.



Contributor – WM Jimmie Payne (No. 99)

Obituaries

Brothers Called Home by the Grand Architect

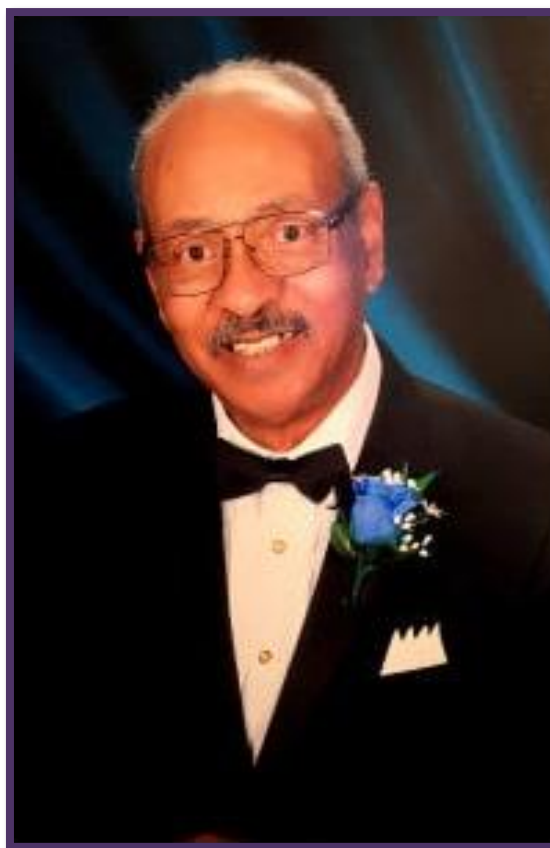
Matthew Hardy, Jr., 33° age 71, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., passed away peacefully Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at DCH Regional Medical Center.

Private graveside services were officiated by Pastor Jesse J. White, Jr., and were limited to close family. A public memorial service will be held at a later date.

He was preceded in death by his father, Matthew Hardy, Sr.; mother, Mae Francis Hardy and wife, Minnie T. Hardy.

He is survived by his daughter, Nicolette A. Price (Albert); son, Matthew Hardy, III (Cassandra); five grandchildren, Andre D. Wiggins, Charmaine M. Wiggins, Armani T. Hardy, Nya C. Hardy, and Matthew Hardy, IV; one great-grand, Amariyon D. Maye; and a host of other family members.

He was a graduate of Druid High School Class of 1966 and an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Navy. He was employed by the City of Tuscaloosa Water Dept. as an account clerk until his retirement. Matthew was a man of great devotion to God and his family and had a passion for singing. He was a founding member of the Stars of Harmony and was a member of various choirs at Trinity M. B. Church, formally 10th Street Baptist where he also served as a Deacon. He was Past Master of Little Warrior Lodge No. 406; Past Patron of O.E.S.; Past Commander in Chief of Rose of Sharron Consistory No. 208 and Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama. Burial was at the Alabama National Cemetery.



Matthew Hardy, Jr., 33°

Article Submission Guidelines

The Cornerstone Message accepts submissions of articles, flyers, and information of events of general interest to Prince Hall Masons throughout the state of Alabama. The *Cornerstone Message* is published quarterly in the months of April, July, October, and January. Submission of articles and photographs are to be forwarded to the publication's editor via email (hjeromeglover@yahoo.com). Please include a point of contact and telephone number with each article submission. Articles and photographs become property of the publication and the right is reserved to edit and use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. **Deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is 5 July 2020.** These articles should include events from **April 2020 — June 2020**. Articles are to be submitted with a minimum of one paragraph written in third person using Microsoft Word (Times New Roman 11) and photographs should be of good quality JPEG format and captioned. No more than two articles per lodge can be submitted for each edition. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Cornerstone Message* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Honorable Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

RW Anthony J. Johnson

Grand Secretary

Post Office Box 10504

Birmingham, Alabama 35202

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Brother Ronald Adams

Evening Star Lodge No. 6

Brother Marion A. Dortch, Jr.

Hamilton Lodge No. 365

Brother Alvin B. Howard

Milton W. Howze Lodge No. 408

Brother Joshua Anthony

Shorter Lodge No. 533

Brother Carlos Bozeman

New Beginning Lodge No. 970

WM Carl Cooney

Temple Lodge No. 98

WM Jimmie Payne

Lincoln Lodge No. 99

WM Folante Perry

Liberty Star Lodge No. 333

PM Larry D. Tisdale

Morning Star Lodge No. 50

PM Larry Jones

Tuxedo Lodge No. 431

RW Herman "Jerome" Glover

Publication Editor

WM Roderick Caswell

Front Cover Designer